



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Ouachita National Forest
Cold Springs Ranger District

PO Box 417
Booneville, AR 72927

File Code: 1950

Date: October 26, 2017

To Whom it May Concern:

The Ouachita National Forest, Poteau-Cold Springs Ranger District, has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) for the Hole in the Ground project. Hole in the Ground is located in mostly in Logan County, Arkansas extending down into Scott County, AR in Township 4 North, Range 27 West, Sections 1-4 and Township 4 North, Range 26 West, Section 6. This project area is approximately 7 miles southeast of Booneville, Arkansas, just south of the small community of Sugar Grove, Arkansas.

The project includes timber harvest, prescribe burning, wildlife improvements, and system road improvements for Management Area 14 (Ouachita Mountains, Habitat Diversity Emphasis). The proposed project is an activity implementing a land management plan and is subject to the pre-decisional objection process at 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B. The EA is available on-line at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php?project=51599>. Documentation is also available for review at Cold Springs Ranger District office in Booneville, AR.

How to Comment and Timeframe

The opportunity to comment ends 30 days following the date of publication of the legal notice in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments per §218.2 regarding the proposed project or activity during a public comment period established by the responsible official are eligible to file an objection §218.24(b)(6), §219.53. For issues to be raised in objections, they must be based on previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity and attributed to the objector. The publication date of the legal notice in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to submit written comments on a proposed project or activity. The time period for the opportunity to comment on a proposed project or activity to be documented with an environmental assessment shall not be extended. It is the responsibility of all individuals and organizations to ensure that their comments are received in a timely manner.

Written comments must be submitted to: District Ranger, PO Box 417, Booneville, AR 72927 or fax to (479) 675-3232. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc, .docx) to comments-southern-ouachita-coldsprings@fs.fed.us. For objection eligibility, each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request §218.24(b)(8). Please state "Hole in the Ground project" in the subject line when providing electronic comments, or on the envelope when replying by mail. After considering your comments, the Forest Service will finalize the EA. Prior to decision, an objection period will be provided on the final EA and a draft Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact. If you have questions about this project or would like more information, please contact Donna Reagan at (479) 675-4743 ext. 107 or dsreagan@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

/s/SCOTT SAUNDERS
Acting District Ranger

